



City of Cincinnati

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For Immediate Release

CROOKSHANK SERVICE CENTER OPENING

On Thursday morning May 2nd, 2002, the City of Cincinnati will dedicate a new building for the Department of Public Services. Crookshank Service Center, a 25,000 square foot traffic and road operations garage, office space, and community meeting facility will serve the City's west side neighborhoods. The Department of General Services and the Department of Public Services are embarking on a major reorganization of buildings and facilities to reduce costs to taxpayers while improving City services. Crookshank Service Center represents only a small part of many new and wonderful events to come in the next two years.

Construction of the new Crookshank Service Center, completed by House Construction Services took ten months and cost \$1.6 million. The original Crookshank Garage, built in 1931, was demolished, and construction on the new facility began in May of 2001. Designed by the Facility Management Division of the Department of General Services of the City of Cincinnati and Cole & Russell Architects to house both Public Services operations as well as community functions, the new Crookshank Service Center represents a commitment of service to the community, which Public Services maintains as its most important goal. Crookshank Service Center is the second building of its kind to be opened within the last year. Dunbar Service Center, supporting the East Side communities was opened in October of 2001.

Planning for the new facility began in 1996 when a structures survey determined that the building's condition was grave. Lighting and ventilation were poor, structural members had rusted, there were no female facilities, and the garage was too small to accommodate the new trucks and equipment now in service.

Design goals for the new building included: providing a pleasant working environment for both office and field staff by creating as much natural lighting to all the work spaces as possible; creating a significant aesthetic improvement to the immediate neighborhood and demonstrating a commitment to the neighborhood by building a well designed public building; providing new furniture and equipment to replace outdated and broken systems; establishing adequate ventilation and facilities for all work areas using new technological advances; creating a new meeting center for neighborhood activities. The new building includes: 5 private offices as well as open office space for as many as twelve staff; a break room; a conference room for City as well as community functions; locker rooms and bathrooms including showers which for the first time creates equal accommodations for men and women; new data and communications systems; new 20,000 sf garage; and two new jib cranes to expedite the on-loading and off-loading of heavy equipment.

